



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY UNVEILS 2004 TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS SURVEY RESULTS
Class size reduction, better training, more time for planning are among teachers concerns

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today unveiled preliminary results from the 2004 North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey, data that enables public schools to zero in on ways to improve the working conditions of teachers and enhance the learning environment for students. The study, which is an integral part of Easley's N.C. Teacher Working Conditions Initiative and the first of its kind in the nation, surveys teachers and administrators from across the state to assess satisfaction in the areas of time, professional development, facilities and resources, school leadership, and teacher empowerment.

"This survey is a vital part of my commitment to keep high quality teachers in the classroom and improve education for all children," said Easley. "Armed with this data, schools and districts across the state can customize improvement efforts to address specific areas of need, as outlined by their own teachers, which will help us attract and retain the best teachers while creating and maintaining outstanding schools. Good teacher working conditions mean good student learning conditions."

More than 34,000 teachers and administrators responded to the 2004 survey, which was conducted online this spring. Respondents represent 38 percent of all educators in the state, 90 percent of schools and 100 percent of school districts.

"Keeping class size low, improving professional development opportunities and providing adequate planning time are just some of the things that teachers report that they need," said Easley. "To improve our schools we must listen to our teachers and provide them with the tools they need to be successful."

Individual and school-specific data is available online at <http://twc.learnnc.org>. Schools that responded with a 40 percent or greater rate will receive individual school reports containing in-depth information on responses to each of the survey's 70 questions. Statewide comparison data will be released in the fall and will also be available on the website.

Initial findings from the 2004 Teacher Working Conditions Survey indicate:

- Teachers want manageable class sizes, with 48.6% of the respondents stating that they do not have reasonable class sizes to afford them the time they need to meet the educational needs of all students.